

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for the fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:
 - a. providing one or more injecting wellbores to an underground coal formation;
 - b. sealing all other boreholes to said underground coal formation to which burning could channel from one or more of said injecting wells;
 - c. injecting an oxidizing gas through said one or more injecting wellbores and into said underground coal formation;
 - d. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation; and
 - e. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said one or more injecting wellbores.
2. (Original) A method of claim 1 further comprising: extinguishing the burning coal.
3. (Original) A method of claim 1 further comprising: injecting a slug of water into the formation in which the coal is burning to cause additional fracturing of the coal formation.
4. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein said oxidizing gas is air enriched with oxygen.
5. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein said oxidizing gas is air.

6. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein said cooling media is water.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for the fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:

- a. injecting an oxidizing gas through a wellbore and into an underground coal formation;
- b. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
- c. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore; and

wherein said cooling media is a foam containing water.

8. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined amount of a cooling media is less than the amount needed to offset the BTUs produced by the burning coal.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method for the fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:

- a. injecting an oxidizing gas through a wellbore and into an underground coal formation, said oxidizing gas being injected at a pressure substantially equal to or the fracturing exceeding the fracturing pressure of said coal formation;
- b. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation; and
- c. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore.

11. (Original) A method of claim 10 further comprising:
extinguishing the burning coal.

12. (Original) A method of claim 10 further comprising:
injecting a slug of water into the formation in which the coal is burning to cause
additional fracturing of the coal formation.

13. (Original) A method of claim 12 further comprising:
extinguishing the burning coal.

14. (Original) A method of claim 10 wherein said predetermined amount of a
cooling media is less than the amount needed to offset the BTUs produced by the burning
coal.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for the fracturing of underground coal
deposits comprising:

- a. injecting an oxidizing gas through a wellbore and into an underground coal
formation, said oxidizing gas being injected at a pressure substantially equal to or
exceeding fracturing pressure of said coal formation;
- b. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
- c. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning
of the coal away from said wellbore; and

wherein the predetermined amount of cooling media is a quantity sufficient for the
BTU value of the cooling media, air and coal is 60% or less of BTU value of the air and
coal.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 10 wherein said oxidizing gas is
injected at a pressure equal to or exceeding the fracturing pressure of said coal formation.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 15 wherein said oxidizing gas is
injected at a pressure equal to or exceeding the fracturing pressure of said coal formation.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~claim 18~~ further comprising for fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:
 - a. providing a single open wellbore to an underground coal bearing formation;
 - b. injecting an oxidizing gas through said wellbore and into said underground coal formation;
 - c. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
 - d. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore; and
 - e. extinguishing the burning coal.
20. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~claim 18~~ further comprising: for fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:
 - a. providing a single open wellbore to an underground coal bearing formation;
 - b. injecting an oxidizing gas through said wellbore and into said underground coal formation;
 - c. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
 - d. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore; and
 - e. injecting a slug of water into the formation in which the coal is burning to cause additional fracturing of the coal formation.
21. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 189 wherein said oxidizing gas is air enriched with oxygen.
22. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 189 wherein said oxidizing gas is air.
23. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 189 wherein said cooling media is water.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~claim 18~~ for fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:

- a. providing a single open wellbore to an underground coal bearing formation;
- b. injecting an oxidizing gas through said wellbore and into said underground coal formation;
- c. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation; and
- d. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore

wherein said cooling media is a foam containing water.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 189 wherein said predetermined amount of a cooling media is less than the amount needed to offset the BTUs produced by the burning coal.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~claim 18~~ for fracturing of underground coal deposits comprising:

- a. providing a single open wellbore to an underground coal bearing formation;
- b. injecting an oxidizing gas through said wellbore and into said underground coal formation;
- c. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
- d. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore; and

wherein said oxidizing gas is injected at a pressure substantially equal to or exceeding the fracturing pressure of said coal formation.

27. (Previously Presented) A method for the production of clean gas from a coal formation comprising:

- a. providing a single open wellbore to an underground coal bearing formation;
- b. injecting an oxidizing gas through said wellbore and into said underground coal formation;

- c. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
- d. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said wellbore;
- e. extinguishing the burning coal; and
- f. removing gas from said underground coal bearing formation through said wellbore.

28. (Previously Presented) A method for the production of clean gas from a coal formation comprising:

- a. providing one or more injecting wellbores to an underground coal formation;
- b. sealing all other boreholes to said underground coal formation to which a burning could channel from one or more of said injecting wells during the time coal is being burned in said formation;
- c. injecting an oxidizing gas through said one or more injecting wellbores and into said underground coal formation;
- d. igniting the coal in said underground coal formation;
- e. injecting a predetermined amount of a cooling media to force the burning of the coal away from said one or more injecting wellbores;
- f. extinguishing the burning coal; and
- g. removing gas from said underground coal bearing formation through one or more of said wellbores.

29. (New) A method of claim 1 wherein said cooling media is a foam containing water.

30. (New) A method of claim 7 further comprising:
extinguishing the burning coal.

31. (New) A method of claim 7 further comprising:
injecting a slug of water into the formation in which the coal is burning to cause
additional fracturing of the coal formation.
32. (New) A method of claim 7 wherein said oxidizing gas is air enriched with
oxygen.
33. (New) A method of claim 7 wherein said oxidizing gas is air.
34. (New) A method of claim 7 wherein said cooling media is water.
35. (New) A method of claim 7 wherein said cooling media is a foam
containing water.